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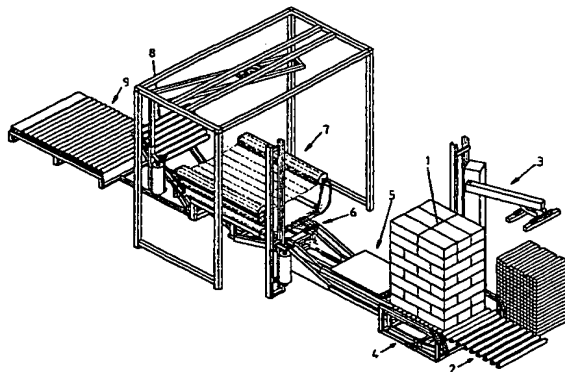
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(54) Title: A WRAPPING METHOD AND APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: The invention concerns a method and apparatus for wrapping loads (1) of goods and materials in a wrapping material, such as a plastics film, which comprises placing at least two battens in a spaced substantially parallel orientation on one surface of the load, partially wrapping the load in a wrapping material by rotating the load relative to dispensing means for the wrapping material and/or rotating the dispensing means around the load, to envelop the battens in the wrapping material and to hold the battens in place on the surface of the load, the battens being placed apart to support the load and being adapted to receive therebetween the forks of a fork-lift truck for transporting the load. Preferably, the wrapping material overlaps the ends of the battens to hold the battens in position. The load is then turned through about 90° from a first wrapping station (4) to a second wrapping station (7), where the wrapping is completed. The apparatus includes a first wrapping station (4) having a wrapping platform to receive the load (1) to be wrapped, a pick end place unit (3) at the first wrapping station (4) for placing battens on a surface of the load (1), wrapping material dispensing means at the first wrapping station, means for rotating the platform relative to dispensing means, and/or means for rotating the dispenser relative to the platform, to partially wrap the load (1), including at least part of the battens, with the wrapping material, transfer means (6) the load (1), through about 90° to a second wrapping station (7), and means at the second wrapping station (7) for completing the wrapping of the load (1).

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